MTs of Large Cardamom valued at Rs. 1.99 crores was imported from Nepal. There were no imports of small cardamom during this period.

(b) Cardamom being a consumer item, its import is permitted against a specific license for export production. However, under the Indo-Nepal treaty of trade, import of goods of Nepalese origin including large cardamom is freely permitted.

(c) The countries from which cardamom was imported are as under:

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (April-Aug.96)
Large Cardamom	Nepal	Bhutan Nepal UAE	Bangladesh Bhutan Nepal Pakistan	Nepal
Small Cardamom	Gautemala Singapore	Gautemala Singapore	Bhutan Singapore	—

(Source: DGCI&S, CALCUTTA)

Report on Child Labour by an NGO to the European Parliament

2521. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an NGO called "Human Rights Watch" submitted a report to the Europen Parliament accusing Indians of employing child labour;

(b) whether Government are aware that these reports are fabricated and instigated by the internation vested interests; and

(c) whether Government are aware that bogey of child labour is being used against the developing nations by the multi-national Companies, especially after the WTO came into existence?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Book-Banks for SC/ST/OBC Students in Bihar

2522. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Book-Banks for SC/ST/OBC students in the state of Bihar with the co-operation of the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such Book Banks located in the State;

(d) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes Sir, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Book Banks for SC/ST, Ministry of Welfare and the State Government of Bihar are funding Book Banks in the State of Bihar in the ratio of 50:50 i.e. give their matching share to meet the expenditure for the Book Banks set up for Professional courses for Agriculture, Engineering, Medical (including Indian system of Medicine), Polytechnics and Veterinary courses. There are no Book Banks for the OBC.

(b) and (c) 39, Details are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Does not arise.